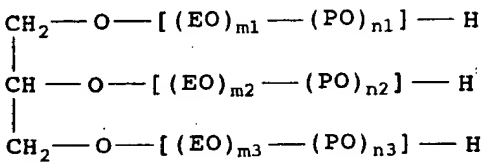
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An ink composition for ink jet recording, comprising a compound represented by formula (I)



(I)

wherein

EO represents an ethyleneoxy group;

PO represents a propyleneoxy group;

m1, m2, m3, n1, n2, and n3 each is independently zero or a natural number of not less than 1;

EO and PO may be arranged, regardless of order in the parentheses, randomly or as blocks joined together; and

m1 + m2 + m3 + n1 + n2 + n3 is in the range of 0.5 to 10 in terms of number average of a mixture of compounds represented by formula (I),

and a colorant, ~~provided that~~

~~when, in formula (I), all of n1, n2, and n3 are zero,~~ said ink composition further comprising ~~comprises~~ glycerin.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colorant comprises a water-soluble dye and/or a pigment.

Claim 4 (original) The ink composition according to claim 3, wherein the pigment is a surface treated pigment which has a dispersing group on its surface and is dispersible in an aqueous solvent without any dispersant.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by formula (I) is a mixture of at least two or more compounds selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by formula (I).

Claim 6 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by formula (I) has an average molecular weight of not more than 1000.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the ink composition has a surface tension of not more than 40 mN/m.

Claim 8 (original) The ink composition according to claim 7, which further comprises a 1, 2-alkylene glycol in which the alkylene group may be branched.

Claim 9 (original) The ink composition according to claim 8, wherein when the amount of 1, 2-alkylene glycol added is not less than 3% by weight, the amount of the

compound represented by formula (I) added is at least 2% by weight.

Claim 10 (original) The ink composition according to claim 9, wherein the alkylene group of 1, 2-alkylene glycol has 4 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 11 (original) The ink composition according to claim 10, wherein the 1, 2-alkylene glycol is 0.5 to 20% by weight of 1, 2-pentanediol, 0.3 to 15% by weight of 1, 2-hexanediol, or a mixture of said 1, 2-alkylene glycols.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 8, which further comprises 0 to 10% by weight of (di)propylene glycol monobutyl ether and the weight ratio of the 1, 2-alkylene glycol to (di)propylene glycol monobutyl ether is 1:0 to 1:10.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 8, which further comprises 0 to 5% by weight of an acetylene glycol surfactant and the weight ratio of the 1, 2-alkylene glycol to the acetylene glycol to the acetylene glycol surfactant is 1:0 to 1:3.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 8, which further comprises 0 to 20% by weight of di(tri)ethylene glycol monobutyl ether and the weight ratio of the 1, 2-alkylene glycol to the di(tri)ethylene glycol monobutyl ether is 1:0 to 1:10.

Claim 15 (previously presented) An ink set for ink jet recording, comprising at least two ink compositions according to claim 1, characterized in that

said ink set satisfies a relationship represented by formula (a) at least at 20°C:

$$((\mu max - \mu min)/\mu max) \times 100 \leq 5\ (\%)\ (a)$$

wherein μmax represents the maximum viscosity value in the ink compositions contained in the ink set; and μmin represents the minimum viscosity value in the ink compositions contained in the ink set.

Claim 16 (original) The ink set according to claim 15, which always satisfies the relationship represented by formula (a) at 15 to 45°C.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The ink set according to claim 15, wherein said at least two ink compositions are identical to each other in color but different from each other in color density.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The ink set according to claim 15, wherein the colorant contained in each of the ink compositions is a pigment and the viscosities of the ink compositions as measured with a rotating viscometer at a torque of 1 mN·m to 100 N·m satisfy the relationship represented by formula (a).

Claim 19 (previously presented) The ink set according to claim 15, wherein at least

one of the ink compositions has a colorant content of not less than 5% by weight.

Claim 20 (previously presented) An ink jet recording method comprising the steps of: (a) providing the ink composition of claim 1; (b) ejecting droplets of the ink composition; and (c) depositing the droplets onto a recording medium to form a record.

Claim 21 (previously presented) The record produced by the method according to claim 20.

Claim 22 (previously presented) An ink jet recording method comprising the steps of: (a) providing the ink set of claim 15; (b) ejecting droplets of the at least two ink compositions of the ink set; and (c) depositing the droplets onto a recording medium to form a record.

Claim 23 (previously presented) The record produced by the method of claim 22.

Claim 24 (previously presented) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the glycerin is present in the ink composition in an amount of 5-10% by weight.